



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

March 2022

Meetings: Next meeting is **March 8**, 10.00 for morning tea with meeting to begin at 10.30. Venue is the Merewether Bowling Club and we shall be having lunch afterward so hope you can join us.

Birthday Wishes to Pamela Boyd and Rosemary Richards plus other members who celebrate in March. Hope you all enjoy a wonderful day.



Guest Speaker: Robyn Single will talk about Early Lifeboat Rescues in Newcastle

Membership now stands at 70 and a very warm welcome is extended to our new members Stephanie Hutchins, Annette Carroll, Terry Collins, Joan Ryan and Helen Webber.

Bus Trips: 15 March will see us travel to Marthaville House Arts and Cultural Centre Cessnock, for morning tea and then onto Nightingale Vineyards for a wine tasting and lunch. Cost of \$70 is extremely good value. Marthaville House has a wonderful craft shop so if you have anybody you need to buy presents for in the next few months you will find lots of inspiration here! Several seats are remaining for those who wish to join us.

Caldwell St Walkway

Extract Summary from Novo News by [Maia O'Connor](#)
Jan 17, 2022

"A new development application (DA) to the Council, to extinguish the carriageway linking Llewellyn Street and Caldwell Street in Merewether, which has been operational for over 80 years, has already attracted many objections.

"This Right of Way has been utilised by the Merewether community for access to the pre-school, the park, residences and facilities in Caldwell Street like the Alice Ferguson Community Centre and the Bowling Club for decades".



"Of course, the reverse is also true, allowing easy access to the commercial area of Merewether village like the Post Office, fruit store and supermarket, cafe and pharmacy, increasing the financial viability of these businesses."

The park connected to the carriageway has offered local families a safe location in the area to use, and permanently isolating the asset would also reduce ease of park access for users.

A submission to council opposing the DA also cited the impact on residents with a disability, who have previously relied on the carriageway to access key facilities in the

area. Businesses and residents alike are fearful of the enduring impacts on the Merewether community should the DA proceed further, and get approved.

The new development on Llewellyn Street has blocked access to the carriageway during construction." It's been a major inconvenience not having this available whilst construction has taken place"

Submissions to the City of Newcastle say public access to the Right of Way was granted to the Merewether community "pre-1938", and was gifted by the RSL when selling the carpark land, adjacent to the carriageway.

"Blocking the carriageway will turn the park into an island, remove vehicular access to Merewether Bowling Club's shed, impact businesses, affect the amenity of many residents and remove the Council's own access to maintain the park and it's equipment."

In the original DA, the Developer agreed to a clause stating the carriageway was to remain, and when the agreed that it would return to a carriageway at completion of build.

In December however, a late minor modification application was lodged by local company Perception Planning to remove the clause from the DA. As the application was listed as a 'minor modification', neighbouring residents were not advised of the change.

"Residents have condemned the Developer, saying "it is an insult to the community and the intention of [the RSL's] gift and the council has an obligation to protect this asset. "One resident's submission said that "when the wire fence went up at the start of construction no local residents ever contemplated that this would be a permanent situation – Council told residents that this carriageway would return at completion and that is what the residents expect."

Councillor Duncan stated "My understanding is that Council's original development included a condition to protect this right of way and I believe it should be adhered to and the requested modification refused."

"NovoNews has reached out to planning agent Perception Planning, who submitted the modification on behalf of the developer, for comment, however they did not respond by time of publishing."

The City of Newcastle refused to provide comment on the matter, as the DA is still under assessment. **Maia O'Connor**

Point to Ponder: When you are wrong admit it, when you are right be quiet (Prime Way of Life)

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GROUCHY OLD PERSON. THE TRUTH IS, ONCE YOU GET OLD, YOU STOP BEING POLITE AND START BEING HONEST.

courtesy of Robyn Single

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